

May 13, 1965

TO THE SENATE, FIFTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION:

I disapprove and veto Senate Bill 160 for the following reasons:

In my message to the Legislature on January 27, 1965, I made the following statements:

" . . . proliferation of governing boards is retarding the development of a coordinated state system of higher education designed to achieve excellence . . . "

"To offer some hope for unity, some promise or order, some strides toward quality," I recommended that the management of two more colleges be placed under the Board of Regents for State Teachers Colleges. Senate Bill 160 removes two institutions from the jurisdiction of that Board.

In answer to a direct question during a recent press conference concerning the establishment of separate boards of regents for existing state-supported institutions, I referred to and reiterated these statements. In private conversations with members of the Legislature, I have emphasized my opposition to the creation of additional boards of regents.

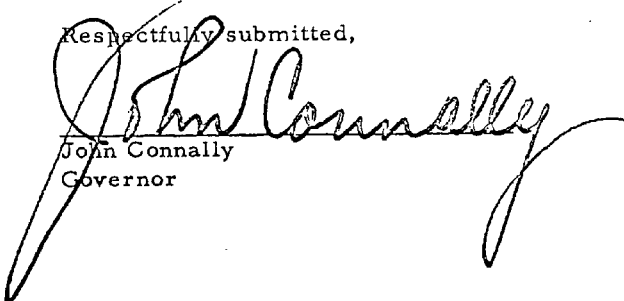
Senate Bill 160 transfers the management of East Texas State University and West Texas State University from the Board of Regents for Texas State Teachers Colleges to a separate board of regents for each institution.

Section 7 of this bill provides that "the scope of work and activities" of these two universities "shall be . . . increased or diminished, altered or changed in any manner deemed by the new Governing Boards to be conducive to the betterment of the services offered." Although this language is taken from the statute authorizing a separate board of regents for North Texas State

University, it may inadvertantly exempt these two universities from coordination by the Texas Commission on Higher Education or its successor, the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System. According to Attorney General's Opinion V-990 dated January 26, 1950, the latest expression of legislative will governs when two statutes are in conflict, regardless of their effective dates.

Accordingly, I herewith veto and return Senate Bill 160.

Respectfully submitted,



John Connally
Governor